(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Three Point Levy System for Coconut Husk

4488. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have introduced a three points levy system for coconut husk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this new levy system has been suggested by the special task force appointed to look into the problems of the coir industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF.P.J KURIEN): (a) to (c). On the recommendations of Shri Ashim Chatterjee Committee Report, validity of Three Point Levy Scheme which had expired on 30th September, 1990 has been allowed to continue upto 31st October, 1992. The modified Three Point Levy Scheme shall be operated in Kerala, other than the Districts of Trissur, Malapuram, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod. Shri Ashim Chatterjee Committee while examining the question of continuance of Three Point Levy Scheme has also referred to the "Report of the Task Force" set up by the Government of Kerala.

Demand and Production of Castor Oil

4489. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is big demand for Castor oil in the international market;

(b) whether, despite being at the top in castor oil production, India lags behind in the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLEIS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Our country is the largest producer of castor oil. We are not lagging behind in international market as our share is 65% of total world trade. However, we are increasingly facing competition from Brazil, China and Thailand.

(d) In order to increase production of castor oil, the following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken:-

i) Registered Users Certificate (industrial) are issued under Solvent Extracted Oils, Edible Floor Control Order, 1967 so as to ensure that castor oil is used for industrial purposes.

ii) Assistance to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, plant protection measure including supply of plant protection chemicals and equipments for organising demonstration of advance technology are being made through Oilseed Production Programme (OPP).

iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the production of oilseeds.

iv) Setting up of necessary proc-